

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 MC-02 IO-14 DRC-01 EB-11

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R 200750Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4326

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 3750

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MCAP, PK, IN

SUBJ: INDO-PAK EXCHANGE ON DEFENSE POLICIES

REF: NEW DELHI 4934; ISLAMABAD 3618 (NOTAL)

1. MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR SOUTH ASIA ABDUL SATTAR GAVE EMBOFF APRIL 19 VERSION OF SWARAN SINGH-AZIZ AHMED DISCUSSIONS IN NEW DELHI ON DEFENSE POLICIES WHICH DIFFERS SOMEWHAT FROM THAT PUT FORTH BY SATTAR'S INDIAN COUNTERPART (NEW DELHI REFTEL).

2. SATTAR SAID SUBJECT OF DEFENSE POLICIES AND EXPENDITURES AROSE WHEN AHMED REFERRED TO INDIAN STATEMENTS ALLEGING GOI DESIRE FOR "STRONG AND INDEPENDENT PAKISTAN". AHMED, AFTER LECTURING SWARAN SINGH ON WHY INDIA SHOULD SUPPORT A STRONG AND INDEPENDENT PAKISTAN, ACCORDING
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TO SATTAR, WENT ON TO BERATE SINGH FOR GOI EFFORTS TO

HAMPER AND NEGATE ANY AND ALL GOP ACTIONS DESIGNED TO BOLSTER ITS DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT SUCH AS EXTERNAL ARMS PROCUREMENT. AHMED EMPHASIZED THAT GOP HAD NO DESIRE TO COMPETE WITH GOI MILITARILY, BUT FACT WAS GOI WAS RECEIVING ARMS FROM USSR, HAD LARGE PRODUCTION CAPABILITY, HAD CURRENT DEFENSE BUDGET OF US\$3 BILLIONS AND NOW WAS EXCHANGING MILITARY DELEGATIONS WITH ANTI-PAKISTAN AFGHANISTAN WHEREAS GOP HAD TO RELY ALMOST SOLELY ON EXTERNAL PROCUREMENT. GOI MOVES TO PREVENT PAKISTAN FROM OBTAINING EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE, AHMED CHARGED, WERE INCONSISTENT WITH GOI STATEMENTS THAT INDIANS WANTED TO SEE STRONG PAKISTAN. SWARAN SINGH REPORTEDLY TOLD AHMED THAT GOI HAD TO PAY FOR EVERY "NUT AND BOLT" IT RECEIVED FROM SOVIETS AND BELITTLED GOI INDIGENOUS PRODUCTION CAPABILITY.

3. AHMED THEN RAISED QUESTION OF PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S COMMENTS ON ARMS QUESTIONS IN SOUTH ASIA IN HIS UN SPEECH. SUBJECT WAS APPARENTLY LEFT WITH VAGUE TALK OF "GETTING TOGETHER" AT SOME FUTURE DATE TO DISCUSS DEFENSE QUESTIONS MORE FULLY.

4. COMMENT: STTAR LEFT IMPRESSION THAT DEFENSE SUBJECT RAISED PRIMARILY BY AHMED IN EFFORT TO SCORE A POINT OFF SWARAN SINGH. PAKS ARE CHRONICALLY IRRITATED BY PERSISTENT GOI ATTEMPTS TO NIX ARMS PROCUREMENT DEALS AND WE HAVE HEARD THIS COMPLAINT (OR LAMENT) ON MANY OCCASIONS. BYROADE

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